

REMARKS

Claims 4-6 and 8-10 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 3 have been canceled.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1 and 3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Shinohara reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,245,603) in view of the Adachi reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,696,729) and the Oda et al. reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,945,710).

Although Applicant does not necessarily concede that the above noted rejection is proper, claims 1 and 3 have been canceled merely to expedite prosecution of the present application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant respectfully notes the Examiner's acknowledgment that claims 4-6 and 8-10 are allowed.

Conclusion

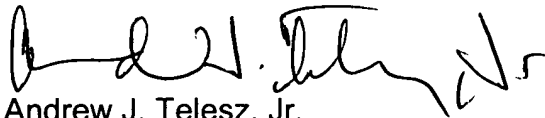
Since claims 1 and 3 have been canceled as noted above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the present application to issue as including allowed claims 4-6 and 8-10.

In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, please contact Andrew J. Telesz, Jr. (Reg. No. 33,581) at (571) 283-0720 in the Washington, D.C. area, to discuss these matters.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment for any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0238.

Respectfully submitted,

VOLENTINE FRANCOS & WHITT, P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew J. Telesz, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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